AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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Docket No.: H0498.70219US02

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

providing a first and a second fluid maintained separately from each other by a third fluid in a common, sealed vessel, wherein the third fluid is <u>adjacent to and</u> substantially immiscible with the first and second fluids, and wherein the first, second and third fluids are stored within the common, sealed vessel for at least one day;

unsealing the vessel;

transferring the first, third, and second fluids in series from the vessel to a reaction site to carry out a predetermined chemical or biochemical reaction; and

avoiding <u>substantial</u> contact between the first and second fluids, at least until after the fluids have been applied to the reaction site.

- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising connecting the vessel to a device comprising the reaction site.
- 3. (Cancelled)
- 4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the vessel and reaction site are on a common platform.
- 5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the vessel and reaction site are integrally connected during storage of the first, second and third fluids in the vessel.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vessel comprises a tube.
- 7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising applying a pressure differential across the reaction site.